



TO: Hospital Advisory Group members and other interested parties
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**May 18, 2000 Meeting Summary
28 in attendance**

1. Our first presentation was from Sherri Williams from Statewide Medical. Sherri talked about various strategies for reducing solid waste and regulated medical waste. It is in everyone's best interest to manage hospital waste with an eye toward waste minimization. Waste Minimization is worth it! You can reduce costs and send less waste to final disposal. Training is a key component of a hospital's waste management program. There are compliance benefits to managing wastes properly. If you would like a copy of the material handed out at the meeting, Waste Management Options for Hospitals, call Sherri at (317) 634-0801.
2. Next, we talked about the Mercury Pledge Reduction Program for Hospitals. We are in draft stage now and accepting comments from hospitals and others. We discussed the items in the draft pledge program. The pledge program will probably be kicked off in July or August 2000. The pledge document will be sent to all members of the HAG and other offices in hospitals. IDEM will publicly recognize those that take the pledge. Hospitals can use the pledge in its outreach and public relations efforts.
3. Miscellaneous discussion:
 - IDEM Recycling Grants – current round closes May 31, 2000. Next round will not occur until Fall 2000. Dave Wintz is available to help you with the grant application process.
 - Handouts: San Francisco, CA and Duluth, MN have banned the sale of mercury-containing thermometers.
 - Health Care EPP Network Information article on the accuracy of mercury-containing sphygmomanometers.
 - Dave Wintz will post all handouts on IDEM's hospital web site.